

Response

The specification and claims were amended in accordance with the amendments above. The amendments are being made to clarify the invention, and to focus the claims on those aspects of the invention which are a commercial priority to the assignee. The amendments are fully supported by the specification, claims, and figures as originally filed. No new matter is believed or intended to be involved.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview with the Examiner on 11/07/2005. The specification and claims were amended as discussed in the interview. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication during the interview that the new title would appear to overcome the objection to the specification. While no agreement was reached during the interview with respect to the claims, Applicant believes that the present amendments place the application in a condition for allowance.

In the Office Action dated 08/09/05, claims 5-8 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 5-8 and 13-16 have been canceled. In addition, Applicant submits that the presently amended claims are enabled by the original disclosure. For instance, and without limitation, Applicant submits that the present specification provides sufficient disclosure to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the claimed invention without undue experimentation at, among other places, page 12, line 15 through page 13, line 20; as well as page 19, line 17 through page 21, line 10. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 9-10, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lyons et al. (US 2002/0067258). Applicant notes that, under MPEP 2131, a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. In addition, the elements in the prior art reference must be arranged as required by the claim. MPEP 2131.

Applicant submits that Lyons et al. fails to anticipate present claims 20-39 in accordance with MPEP 2131. For instance, Applicant notes that each present independent claim (claims 20, 37, and 39) recites a hierarchical list of interest values for characteristics of views corresponding to images captured by cameras. To the extent that Lyons et al. teaches a more than one possible interest value for characteristics of views corresponding to images captured by cameras, Lyons et al. fails to teach a hierarchical arrangement of such interest values as recited in each of the present independent claims. Accordingly, Lyons et al. fails to anticipate the claims in accordance with MPEP 2131, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

While several distinctions have been noted over the art of record, Applicant notes that there are several other limitations recited in the present claims which are neither taught nor suggested by the art of record. Applicant expressly reserves all rights and arguments with respect to distinctions not explicitly noted herein. In addition, to the extent that the amendments constitute a narrowing of the claims, such narrowing of the claims should not be construed as an admission as to the merits of the prior rejections. Indeed, Applicant traverses the rejections and preserve all rights and arguments. Applicant further notes that the dependent claims include additional limitations not taught or suggested in the art of record, thus forming independent basis for novelty and non-obviousness.

Based on the foregoing, all pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and an early notice of allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,



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